

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK/NH

APPROVED BY NEA:LBLAINGEN

AID/ASIA/SA:GTMCCLOSKEY

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NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

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R 202238Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013433

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAID, MASS, PK

SUBJECT:HELICOPTER GRANT

1. THE OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM AEROMARITIME, INC. (THEIR LETTER OF 10 DEC 74 POUCHED) FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION ON THE POSSIBLE EXPORT OF THE MINI-TAT (TACTICAL ARMAMENT TURRET) DEFENSIVE HELICOPTER ARMAMENT SYSTEM TO PAKISTAN. UNDER PRESENT POLICY, THIS LETHAL END-ITEM MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO PAKISTAN AND AEROMARITIME WILL BE SO INFORMED.

2. THE MINI-TAT SYSTEM EMPLOYS ONE MINIGUN (M134) TO PROVIDE TROOP HELICOPTERS WITH A LIMITED CAPABILITY TO RETURN HOSTILE GROUND FIRE. AEROMARITIME STATED IN ITS LETTER THAT THE GOP HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PURCHASING THIS SYSTEM FOR USE ON "THEIR UH1H/D TROOP TYPE HELICOPTERS." ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE ONLY UH1H HELICOPTERS IN PAKISTAN WERE DONATED BY THE USG FOR DISASTER RELIEF
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PURPOSES. THE MOUNTING OF ARMAMENTS ON THESE AIRCRAFT

WOULD CLEARLY INDICATE AN INTENTION TO USE THE HELICOPTERS FOR PURPOSES SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED BY THE PROJECT AGREEMENT COVERING THIS GRANT.

3. POTENTIAL FOR STRONG CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC CRITICISM

OF DIVERSION OF THESE AIRCRAFT TO MILITARY PURPOSES IS OBVIOUS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF CONTINUING GAO MONITORING OF THIS QUESTION. WE HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE THAT THE INQUIRY FROM AEROMARITIME WAS IN FACT STIMULATED BY OFFICIAL GOP INTEREST IN SUCH A PURCHASE. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THIS WAS SELF-GENERATED BY MANUFACTURER OR BRAINSTORM OF SOME ENTERPRISING SALES AGENT IN THE AREA. DEPT THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO MAKE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION TO GOP AT THIS TIME.

4. MISSION REQUESTED TO SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF GOP, CITING SPECIFICS OF REQUEST WE HAVE RECEIVED. WHILE YOU SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DRAWING CONCLUSIONS WHICH CANNOT BE SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE AT HAND, GOP SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT ANY DIVERSION OF THESE HELICOPTERS TO MILITARY PURPOSES WOULD BE A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THIS GOVERNMENT. (ARMING THE HELICOPTERS WOULD BE CONSIDERED DE FACTO DIVERSION.) YOU SHOULD ALSO REMIND GOP OF PROVISIONS IN PROAG FOR RESUMPTION OF OWNERSHIP OF HELICOPTERS BY USG SHOULD THEY BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE NOT PERMITTED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. KISSINGER

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